

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

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P R 141540Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 544

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

JEC PARIS 1711

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 190

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1552

DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS TO SAIGON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PFOR, PDIP, PARM, VS, VN, UN

SUBJ: "PRG" LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA: NON-HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 082249; B) STATE 80526

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ON FRANZ MUHEIM, RANKING OFFICIAL IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU IN AMB. KELLER'S ABSENCE, TO MAKE STRONG DEMARCHE REGARDING "PRG" LIAISON OFFICE'S CLEAR VIOLATION OF TERMS UNDER WHICH IT ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN SWITZERLAND.

2. POLCOUNS REVIEWED EVENTS LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LIAISON OFFICE AND OUR EXPRESSED CONCERN FROM VERY BEGINNING THAT OFFICE NOT EXCEED ITS DESIGNATED FUNCTIONS. WE NOTED THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE PATTERN OF DELIBERATE, FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THESE GUIDELINES, CULMINATING IN APRIL 9 PHAM VAN BA PRESS CONFERENCE. POLCOUNS STRESSED THE VERY SERIOUS VIEW TAKEN BY USG OF THESE VIOLATIONS AND EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE THAT GOS TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PREVENT REPETITION.

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3. MUHEIM TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF PRESENTATION. HE REAFFIRMED THAT LIAISON OFFICE WAS SUPPOSED TO RESTRICT ITSELF TO HUMANITARIAN MATTERS ALONE. MUHEIM SAID THAT THE WHOLE MATTER WOULD BE LOOKED INTO, BUT DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF IN ANY WAY AS TO WHAT THE GOS MIGHT DO.

4. ALTHOUGH MUHEIM CLAIMED THAT FPD'S OFFICE IN GENEVA HAD NOT REPORTED ON THE APRIL 9 PRESS CONFERENCE, WE ARE AWARE FROM UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL SENIOR FPD OFFICIALS THAT THIS ISSUE HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED LAST WEEK AT SENIOR LEVEL BEFORE AMBASSADOR KELLER'S DEPARTURE. WE WILL THEREFORE SOON BEGIN PRESSING THE GOS FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE, AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE MATTER UP WITH FPD SEC GEN THALMANN UPON HIS RETURN TO BERN FROM BRIEF VISIT TO PEKING.
PERCIVAL

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